Rs. 121.05, crore, out of State's allocation of Rs. 161.40 crore under CRF for 1999-2000 was released to Gujarat. In addition to CRF, assistance was considered from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for calamities of rare severity in accordance with a set procedure. The Memorandum submitted by the State Government seeking assistance of Rs. 722.16 crore from the NFCR in the wake of drought was considered in accordance with the procedure and this was placed before the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) in the meeting held on 27.3.2000 and the NCRC approved an assistance of Rs. 54.58 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief. This amount was released to the State Government on 31.3.2000. Two quarterly instalments of Centre's share of CRF for 2000-2001 amounting to Rs. 87.42 crore have also been released to the State. In addition to this, first installment of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) funds for the year 2000-2001 amounting to Rs. 3542.50 lakh and first installment of ARWSP(DDP) for the year 2000-2001 amounting to Rs. 200.00 lakh have also been released to Gujarat.

Subsidy for National Projects on Bio-Gas Development in H.P.

*451. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some requests have been received from Government of Himachal Pradesh for grant of subsidy for National Project on Bio-gas Development on the pattern of J&K State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agro-climatic/demographic/geographical conditions of Himachal Pradesh are similar like J&K; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not allowing subsidy at par with J&K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for grant of Central subsidy for family type bio-gas plants on the pattern applicable for the Jammu and Kashmir State was received in 1997-98.

(c) and (d) The Government of India is not differentiating between Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir in this matter and since 1998-99, Central subsidy of Rs. 3,200/per bio-gas plant is allowed in both the States.